State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

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October 9, 2002

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SUMMARY REPORT
8:30 a.m., October 24, 2002
Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, California

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: Status report on the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)

2001-02 Fiscal Year

By the end of June, 2002, SWAMP completed its second year of monitoring and its first year of sampling under the improved monitoring protocols established for SWAMP under the Department of Fish and Game laboratory's analysis contract. Through strict field collection protocols and new analysis methodology, SWAMP was able to achieve reporting limits for metals and organics in the nanogram per liter or parts per trillion range.

Regional Board SWAMP monitoring crews visited 49 stations (26 permanent and 23 rotating) and accomplished approximately 238 sample collections. Due to administrative delays in processing the SWAMP contracts at the State Board, we were unable to get started on the sample collections until almost half the fiscal year had passed. As a result, the full years sampling effort was compressed into the last five months of the fiscal year.

For this year, monitoring efforts were concentrated in the Humboldt Plain with temporary stations established in the Mad, Elk, Freshwater, Jacoby, Salmon, Van Duzen, Yager, and Eel systems.

For ease of sampling, the stations were grouped into three geographic regions. The Klamath group consisted of stations variously located in the Smith, Klamath, Trinity, Scott and Shasta rivers. The Humboldt group consisted of stations in the Mad, Elk, Freshwater, Jacoby, Salmon, Van Duzen, Yager, and Eel. The southern Eel/Russian group had stations in the main stem Eel, South, Middle and North forks of the Eel, Russian River and the Gualala River.

In addition to the surface water sampling effort, the MTBE sampling program on Lake Pillsbury and Ruth Lake accomplished two sampling rounds.

In an effort to aid the development of additional information on water flows, SWAMP funded the installation and maintenance of three stream gages in the Eel river system.

2002-03 Fiscal Year

Sampling for the current fiscal year will begin October 7th. Again, we are starting a little late this year due to the delay in obtaining a signed state budget.

This years monitoring focus will be in the Klamath, Trinity, Shasta and Scott watersheds with the establishment of five new temporary or rotational stations in the Shasta and Klamath Rivers. With our current contract allocation of $369,280, down approximately 20% from last year, we plan to sample 44 stations (29 permanent and 15 rotating) with five sampling rounds and make approximately 215 sample collections.

In addition to the sampling collection efforts, highlights and milestones for SWAMP include:

- Training and field deployment of 15 RB staffers to assist in sample collection
- Development of draft statewide SWAMP Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP)
- Establishment and convening of a SWAMP Scientific Planning Review Committee (SPARC)
- Development of SWAMP database – implementation expected by November, 2002
- Installation of three stream gages for flow and water temperature measurement in the Eel River system
- On a state-wide basis, by the end of the current fiscal year, SWAMP will have collected and analyzed samples from over 400 waterbodies representing about 250, or 25%, of the state's 1,000 hydrologic sub-areas (HSAs).
- During the same time span in Region 1, we will have sampled 50, or approximately 45%, of our 112 HSAs.
- Development (in progress) of mRNA analysis protocols for endocrine disruptor studies in collaboration with UC Davis Environmental Toxicology Laboratory, Region 5, and US EPA, National Exposure Research Laboratory – Cincinnati.

Preliminary Data

As the database is currently being developed and will not be fully functional for another month, limited provisional data will be presented at the time of the Regional Board meeting.

(StatusReportontheSwampEOSRItem8)